

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /073 W

-----091112Z 107895 /12

R 090823Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6212

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

DINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 0923

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, PINT, PFOR, MY, UR

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY: TELECAST OF ABDULLAH MAJID'S CON-  
FESSION

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 848 (DTG 080148Z FEB 77), (B) KUALA LUMPUR  
353 (NOTAL), (C) KUALA LUMPUR 181 (NOTAL), (D) 76 KUALA LUMPUR  
6376 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ABDULLAH MAJID, FORMER PRESS SECRETARY AND  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO LATE PRIME MINISTER RAZAK, HAS  
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MAD E CONFESSION SIMILAR TO THAT OF FORMER COLLEAGUE DATUK  
ABDULLAH AHMAD OF PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES AND TIES WITH  
UNNAMED COMMUNIST MISSION HERE BEGINNING IN 1968 (I.E., SOVIET  
EMBASSY). LIKE AHMAD, HE EXPRESSED REPENTENCE AND PLEDGED  
LOYALTY TO KING AND CCOUNTRY. MEANWHILE A SEGMENT  
OF YOUTH WING OF DOMINANT POLITICAL PARTY, UMNO, HAS  
URGED FIRM ACTIONS AGAINST SAME UNNAMED FOREIGN

MISSION. WE FIND THE CONFESSIONS, ON THE WHOLE PERSUASIVE, SUBSTANTIATING ALLEGATIONS OF PENETRATION OF UPPER ECHELONS OF FORMER RAZAK ADMINISTRATION BY PRO-COMMUNISTS, AND RAISING NUMEROUS QUESTIONS ABOUT ORIGINAS OF VARIOUS GOM POLICIES, INCLUDING MALAYSIA'S INCREASINGLY NEUTRALIST POSTURE IN THE EARLY 1970'S. FULL IMPACT OF LATEST REVELATIONS, BOTH ON INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE AND ON RELATIONS WITH USSR, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING TWENTY MINIUTE TELECAST FEB 7 OF VIDEO-TAPED INTERVIEW, FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOR AND MANPOWER ABDULLAH MAJID, AN AIDE TO LATE PM RAZAK, CONFESSED LONG-STANDING PRO-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS DATING FROM EARLY 1950'S AND HIS OWN ROLE AS AN ACTIVE PROPAGANDIST FOR THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY IN LITERARY FIELD. MAJID CITED VISITS HE HAD MADE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO USSR AND PRC AND SUBSEQUENT PRAISE FOR THESE COUNTRIES IN HIS WRITINGS. INTERVIEW REINFORCED THEMES PRESENTED IN FEB 5 BROADCAST OF CONFESSION BY MAJID'S FORMER COLLEAGUE IN LATE PRIME MINISTER RAZAK'S OFFICE. DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD (REF A).LOCAL PRESS HIGHLIGHTED MAJID'S CONTENTION THAT HE HAD ASSOCIATED WITH DIPLOMATS OF COMMUNIST MISSIONS HERE BEGINNING IN 1968 AND HAD ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE USED AS A "TOOL" OF A "CERTAIN FOREIGN MISSION" TO "PROMOTE THEIR INTEREST TO ACHIEVE

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THE LONG-RANGE GOAL OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM." MAJID SAID THAT UNTIL HIS DETENTION IN NOVEMBER 1976, HE HAD CONTINUED TO HARBOR PRO-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS AND TO PROMOTE COMMUNIST POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES. HE NOW HAD COME TO REALIZE HIS MISTAKES, ADMITTING THE DANGER OF ADHERING TO SUCH VIEWS WHILE A "TRUSTED" GOVERNMENT SERVANT, AND THE FACT THAT "COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY, WHETHER FAR OR NEAR, IS INDEED A VERY SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR EXISTENCE." LIKE AHMAD, ABDULLAH MAJID CONCLUDED BY PLEDGING HIS LOYALTY TO SOVEREIGN AND STATE. ALL PRESS TREATED STORY AS PRINCIPAL NEWS ITEM AND PRINTED FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW.

3. LOCAL PRESS SPECULATES ACTION IS EXPECTED AT NEXT MONTHLY UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING TO EXPEL BOTH ABDULLAH AHMAD AND ABDULLAH MAJID FROM PARTY. PRESS ALSO REPORTED CALL BY MEMBER OF MALAYSIAN SENATE (DEWAN NEGARA) TO AMEND THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION TO DISQUALIFY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT INVOLVED IN PRO-COMMUNIST

ACTIVITIES (AT PRESENT COMPLICITY IN COMMUNIST  
ACTIVITIES IS NOT ONE OF THE GROUNDS SPECIFIED  
FOR DISQUALIFICATION; E.G., MENTAL ILLNESS,  
BANKRUPTCY, CONVICTION BY MALAYSIAN COURT BEARING  
SENTENCE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR OR FINE NOT  
LESS THAN M\$2,000).

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USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 0923

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

4. SELANGOR STATE UMNO YOUTH HAS ECHOED UMNO  
DAMANSARA DIVISION'S CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST THE  
UNNAMED COMMUNIST FOREIGN MISSION IMPLICATED BY  
ABDULLAH AHMAD (REF A). IN ADDITION TO CALLING  
FOR SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW OF MATTER, THE  
YOUTH BODY SAID IT HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE  
ANTI-COMMUNIST INDIVIDUAL WHOSE SPIRIT THE TWO  
ABDULLAH'S SOUGHT TO WEAKEN IS NONE OTHER THAN  
EX-SELANGOR CHIEF MINISTER AND UMNO YOUTH LEADER  
DATUK HARUN IDRIS (WHO DEFENSE WITNESSES IN HIS LATEST  
CORRUPTION TRIAL ALLEGED HAD BEEN VICTIMIZED BY

PRO-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND UMNO).

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NATIONAL UMNO YOUTH WILL HOLD SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FEB 14 TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF CONFESSIONS.

5. COMMENT: THE SOFT SPOKEN MAJID, A SELF-EFFACING MAN SUPPOSEDLY OF CONSIDERABLE LITERARY TALENT, IS GENERALLY WELL-LIKED BY PEOPLE WHO KNOW HIM, IN CONTRAST WITH THE BRASH AND ARROGANT ABDULLAH AHMAD WHO, WHEN IN POWER, TENDED TO THROW HIS WEIGHT AROUND AND MADE INNUMERABLE ENEMIES IN THE PROCESS. WHEREAS WE ARE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE AHMAD'S PRO-COMMUNIST VIEWS TO EXPEDIENCY, MAJID'S ACADEMIC INTEREST IN RURAL POVERTY (WE UNDERSTAND HE DID HIS THESIS ON MALAY AGRICULTURALISTS IN KEDAH STATE) AND LENGTHY LEFTIST BACKGROUND SUGGESTS HE HAS A MUCH DEEPER INTELLECTUAL COMMITMENT TO COMMUNISM. THE CONFESSIONS OF BOTH MEN, ALTHOUGH UNDOUBTEDLY STAGE MANAGED FOR MAXIMUM PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT, NONETHELESS STRIKE US AS PERSUASIVE, SUSTAINING ALLEGATIONS BY RIGHT WING POLITICIANS THAT PRO-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS HAD SUCCEEDED IN INSINUATING THEMSELVES INTO THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE FORMER RAZAK ADMINISTRATION. THE LINKS WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY ALSO TEND TO SUBSTANTIATE RECURRING REPORTS OF CONSIDERABLE RUSSIAN EFFORTS TO WOO MALAYS IN ORDER TO COUNTER PEKING'S INFLUENCE WITHIN THE CHINESE COMMUNISY. THE CONFESSIONS ALSO CALL INTO QUESTION THE FORMER CINVENTIONAL WISDOM THAT THE GOM HAD COOPTED SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (ASPAO) BRANCH HERE BY PACKING THEIR LEADERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY MEN; NOW THAT THE LOYALTIES OF SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE SUSPECT WE WONDER WHO WAS COOPTING WHOM. SIMILAR QUESTIONS NOW ARE BEING RAISED ABOUT ORIGINS OF MALAYSIA'S INCREASED NEUTRALIST STANCE IN EARLY 1970'S. AS EVENTS UNFOLD IT

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WILL BE INTERESTING TO OBSERVE THE EXTENT TO WHICH CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ELEMENTS EXPOLIT THESE REVELATIONS AND IF SO WHETHER THEIR CAMPAIGN WILL BE EXTERNALIZED (I.E., AGAINST SOVIETS FOR THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS) OR INTERNALIZED AGAINST

ALLEGED PRO-COMMUNISTS REMAINING IN GOVERNMENT OR  
POLITICAL PARTIES. FINALLY, WE WONDER HOW LONG  
IT WILL BE BEFORE THESE TWO ARE RELEASED, SINCE WE  
PRESUME PROMISE OF EARLY RELEASE TO REJOIN THEIR  
FAMILIES WAS PRINCIPAL INCENTIVE FOR EXTRACTING  
CONFESSIONS AND SECURING AGREEMENT TO TELEVISION THEM.  
UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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